

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention provides a novel composition of matter comprised of a mixture of two specific classes of compounds --Free-B-Ring flavonoids and flavans-- for use in the prevention and treatment of diseases and conditions associated with the skin.

- 5 This composition of matter simultaneously inhibits cyclooxygenase (COX) and lipoxygenase (LOX) enzymatic activity in normal, aged and damaged dermal cells and tissues. This invention further provides a method for the prevention and treatment of diseases and conditions of the skin mediated by cyclooxygenase (COX) and lipoxygenase (LOX). The method for preventing and treating COX and LOX mediated diseases and
- 10 conditions of the skin is comprised of topically administering to a host in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a mixture of Free-B-Ring flavonoids and flavans synthesized and/or isolated from a single plant or multiple plants, preferably in the *Scutellaria* and *Acacia* genus of plants and pharmaceutically and/or cosmetically acceptable carriers. Finally the present invention provides a method for the
- 15 prevention and treatment of COX and LOX mediated diseases and conditions, including but not limited to sun burns, thermal burns, acne, topical wounds, minor inflammatory conditions caused by fungal, microbial and viral infections, vitilago, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, carcinoma, melanoma, as well as other mammal skin cancers, skin damage resulting from exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, chemicals, heat, wind
- 20 and dry environments, wrinkles, saggy skin, lines and dark circles around the eyes, dermatitis and other allergy related conditions of the skin. Use of the composition described herein also affords the benefit of smooth and youthful skin with improved elasticity, reduced and delayed aging, enhanced youthful appearance and texture, and increased flexibility, firmness, smoothness and suppleness.

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